



CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM

Moving Ahead, Maintaining Momentum

UPDATE -- January 1997

Phase I Completed, Funding Support, Alternative Refinement, Alternative Evaluation & Development of the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report/Statement

Phase I Completed

Phase I of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program is complete: utilizing input from government agencies, the Bay-Delta Advisory Council, and numerous public meetings and workshops, three potential Bay-Delta solutions or "alternatives" have been formulated.

[See our September 1996 UPDATE for more background.]

Phase II will consist of programmatic level analysis and evaluation of the three alternatives' impacts, leading to the selection of a *draft* preferred alternative in 1997. After significant public review, a *final* preferred alternative will be selected in the fall of 1998. Institutional issues (financing, legal questions, etc.) likely to impact effective implementation of the preferred alternative will also receive detailed attention during Phase II.

Phase III, site specific project analysis and implementation, will begin in late 1998 and last for decades.

Funding Support

Through bipartisan efforts in the legislature, the Governor's office, and a unique coalition of stakeholder groups, the CALFED program was given an additional shot in the arm by last year's passage of Proposition 204.

Californians, by approving Proposition 204, acknowledged that the status quo in the Bay-Delta is unacceptable. More than \$450 million has been provided for CALFED activities, including \$390 million for implementation of the ecosystem common program upon certification of the Programmatic EIR/S and completion of a cost sharing agreement with the federal government.

Working with California's Congressional representatives and the President, a federal authorization for \$143 million/year for 3 years to contribute to the CALFED effort was secured late in 1996. Supporters of the program are now seeking federal funds for those authorizations.

The mission of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program is to develop a long-term comprehensive plan that will restore ecological health and improve water management for beneficial uses of the Bay-Delta system."

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program

The innovative CALFED Bay-Delta Program is an historic, consensus-based environmental planning effort bringing together interested Californians and the state and federal governments.

The Program was established by the Governor of California and the U.S. Secretary of Interior.

More than 120 fish and wildlife species, including a number threatened with extinction, rely upon the ecosystem created by the convergence of the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers and the internationally significant estuary they form with San Francisco Bay: the Bay-Delta.

The Delta, home to so much natural splendor, is also the hub of California's major water projects. More than 20 million people in northern, central, and southern California and over 4 million acres of the world's most productive farmland all rely on water from the Delta.

The CALFED program is staffed by a consortium of technical experts assigned from more than a dozen state and federal agencies. The Bay-Delta Advisory Council, comprised of 34 water leaders from throughout California, provides regular guidance. There is continuous opportunity for comment and input from the general public as well.

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&
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Participation,
Implementa-
tion
Strategy**

To provide necessary information to the public and policymakers about the consequences of pursuing a particular course of action, State law requires a program like this one to produce an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), while federal law requires an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Combining the two is permitted, and CALFED will do so.

Phase II: A Six Step Process

IDENTIFICATION AND ADOPTION OF A PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE THROUGH MORE DETAILED ANALYSIS OF THE THREE DEVELOPED IN PHASE I; AND CERTIFICATION OF A PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT/STATEMENT DOCUMENTING THE VARIOUS COSTS, BENEFITS AND CONSEQUENCES OF EACH ALTERNATIVE AT A PROGRAMMATIC LEVEL.

Alternative Refinement

All alternatives include the four "common programs": ecosystem restoration, water quality, water use efficiency, and levee system integrity. The variable distinguishing each of the alternatives will be its storage and conveyance component.

Although the "common programs" will share intended outcomes regardless of the alternative implemented, the actual project composition of each will be affected by the storage and conveyance variable. While fundamentally the same, there will be minor differences as some "common program" actions will be more effective and appropriate for one storage and conveyance alternative than for another.

Step One : Component Refinement

Alternative components ("common programs," storage & conveyance) will be significantly refined -- moving from an outline of categories of actions to proposing specific "real-world" programs within the categories. This will include identifying impacts of potential ranges of implementation levels, determining possible geographic areas for the programs, ranges of configurations, and conceptual operational criteria.

In addition to technically refining the alternatives, preliminary cost-benefit assessments of programs targeted to address identified problems will be completed.

A "Component Refinement Report" documenting the program objectives furthered by each component's actions will conclude this task.

Step Two : Detail Interactions Between Components

The ability of each component to work in concert with the others as part of a particular comprehensive alternative will be investigated.

It is expected that positive linkages between the components of an alternative will result in a whole being more effective than the sum of its parts. For example, part of the Levee System Integrity common program might create opportunities for new shallow water habitat, thus supporting the objectives of the Ecosystem Restoration common program.

Interactions among the "common programs" will be affected by requirements of the storage and conveyance variable. Analysis of this interrelationship will be conducted at this time as well.

At the conclusion of Step II, the alternatives will become "Alternative Programs": consisting of coordinated combinations of component actions.

CONVEYANCE OPTIONS

[1]
Existing
Through
Delta

[2]
Modified
Through
Delta

[3]
Dual System:
Modified
Through
Delta and
Isolated
Conveyance

General Phase

Alternative Refinement

ALTERNATIVE
Common
Programs
and
Variable
Components

Phase I
Alternatives

STEP ONE
Refine
Components

STEP TWO
Detail
Interactions
Between
Components

STEP THREE
Describe
Operations
and
Identify
Benefits/Costs

Implementation Strategy

Step Three :

Describe Operations and Identify Benefits and Costs

Through the use of computer models, statistical analyses, and other technical tools, a determination will be made of each Alternative Program's capability to achieve the CALFED Bay-Delta Program's objectives while adhering to the solution principles.

Operational studies and various technical analyses will reveal, for example, how each Alternative Program would comparatively alter system water flows and produce other physical changes within the Delta, as well as probable ecosystem enhancement success.

In addition, information about variables in costs, implementation schedules and required cash flows will be developed.

Prior to moving into formal environmental review, final adjustments, reflecting the iterative nature of the process, will be made to fine tune the alternative programs' expected efficiencies and capabilities.

Alternative Evaluation

The formal alternative evaluation process will culminate in the Programmatic Environmental Impact Report/Statement (EIR/S) and selection of a preferred alternative. This will complete Phase II.

Step Four :

Analyze Impacts of the Alternative Programs

Use information developed in Step III to assess and predict the probable environmental, social and economic impacts of implementing each alternative program, or of simply maintaining the status-quo, i.e. the "No-action" alternative.

Upon completion of these evaluations, each alternative's ability to achieve the CALFED Program's objectives consistent with our solution principles will be compared as well.

It is the capability of an alternative to optimize satisfaction of both the CALFED Program's objectives and solution principles, which will determine the selection of the draft preferred alternative.

A programmatic EIR/S analyzes alternatives and their impacts in general terms, reflecting the broad categories of actions comprising a programmatic alternative. During Phase III of the CALFED Program, numerous project-level environmental documents will be prepared describing specific projects and the impacts of implementation as part of the comprehensive solution.

Step Five:

Prepare Draft Programmatic EIR/S

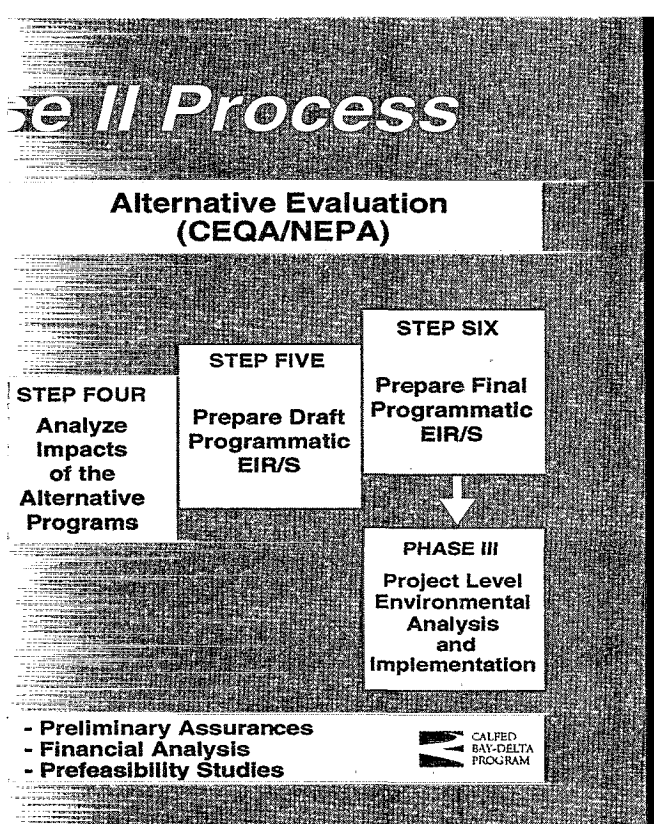
Preparation and public distribution of the Draft Programmatic EIR/S by fall 1997. The DEIR/S will present the information and conclusions developed in Step IV, including operating criteria, mitigation strategies, and an initial implementation strategy for each of the alternatives.

Numerous public hearings will be held throughout the State, including Bay-Delta Advisory Council meetings, to receive comment regarding the data and conclusions presented in the DEIR/S.

Step Six :

Prepare Final Programmatic EIR/S

The Final Programmatic EIR/S, to be completed by fall 1998, will incorporate, reflect and respond to public and agency comments.



CALFED SOLUTION PRINCIPLES

The Preferred Alternative should

- ♦ reduce conflicts
- ♦ be equitable
- ♦ be affordable
- ♦ be durable
- ♦ have no significant redirected impacts
- ♦ be implementable

Implementation Strategy

In addition to its alternative refinement and evaluation efforts, the CALFED Program will develop a strategy during Phase II to resolve the many anticipated legal, financial, and engineering challenges that implementation of the selected alternative will present.

Preliminary Assurances

The CALFED solution will be carried out over several decades. Circumstances in California will change during that time period in ways no one can predict.

Given this uncertainty, meaningful assurances need to be provided today that the selected alternative's implementation and operational criteria will remain essentially constant in the future, while allowing for adaptive management within an ongoing consensus-based framework.

Such assurances may take many forms: including legislative actions, legal arrangements, and physical or operational constraints built into the alternative as part of its implementation.

Financial Analyses

An equitable plan to finance the selected alternative's multi-billion dollar implementation costs will also be developed during Phase II. It is likely the plan will spread costs over many years and multiple revenue sources, with beneficiaries expected to pay in rough proportion to the benefits they receive.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Because water touches all Californians, broad public participation and outreach is a critical component of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program.

Numerous public meetings, in communities from Redding to San Diego, and frequent public technical workshops in Sacramento have been a cornerstone of the process, and they will continue.

Fourteen community meetings and seven technical workshops were held during Phase I to gather public input and additional scientific peer review.

Formal public hearings will follow release of the Draft Programmatic EIR/S during Phase II.

CALFED has also produced several publications describing the Program, and speakers are available to make presentations to interested groups. Written comments regarding any aspect of the CALFED Program are always welcome.

Prefeasibility Studies

Although Phase II will primarily focus on general categories of projects, comparative evaluation of the alternatives' effectiveness will require CALFED to undertake more detailed technical engineering and biological assessments related to variations in size, configuration and location of specific programs or projects.

This information will contribute to more efficient project level environmental analyses during implementation of the selected alternative.

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

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CALFED Agencies:

CA Resources Agency

CA Dept. of Fish and Game

CA Dept. of Water Resources

CA Environmental Protection Agency

State Water Resources Control Board

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

U.S. Dept. of the Interior

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

U.S. Dept. of Commerce

National Marine Fisheries Service

If you would like to receive notices of CALFED meetings and availability of program documents, please call us at 916.657.2666 and ask to be added to our mailing list. Our fax number is 916.654.9780. Our internet homepage is <http://calfed.ca.gov/>.